

Message Text

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21

ACTION FAA-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTe-00 EB-07 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-02 /024 W

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R 270512Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 645

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MUSCAT 795

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAIR, MU

SUBJECT: FAA CIVIL AVIATION ASSISTANCE TO OMAN

REF: STATE A-7641; FAA BEIRUT 041300Z NOV 74

1. PRELIMINARY REACTION MINCOMMUNICATIONS RAJAB TO DRAFT MOA WAS TO PROPOSE:

A) ADDITION OF PHRASE "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF OMAN" OHO ARTICLE VI PARAS 3,5,6 AND 7;

B) DELETION OF REFERENCES TO FAA AND DEPT STATE REGULATIONS ARTICLE VI PARA 7;

C) DELETION OF SENTENCE, "DETERMINATION...SUBJECT TO CONCURRENCE OF THE FAA", ARTICLE VI PARA 6.

RAJAB ALSO ASKED FOR EXPLANATION OF "POST ALLOWANCE", "TRANSFER ALLOWANCE" AND "PRO/RATA COST/WASHINGTON SUPPORT (FAA)". EMBASSY PROVIDED MINISTRY WITH EXPLANATION "POST" AND "TRANSFER" ALLOWANCES DERIVED FROM SEPTEMBER ISSUE DEPT OF STATE NEWSLETTER. REQUEST INFO ON PRO/RATA COSTS WHICH WE CAN USE IN FURTHER DISCUSSIONS.

2. CONCERNING PERQUISITES, ONLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES
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BETWEEN OMANGOV REGULATIONS AND STATE/FAA RULES AS FOLLOWS:

A) OMANGOV PROVIDES FOR SHIPMENT OF 2000 LBS LIMITED HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS;

B) FURNISHED QUARTERS NOT RPT NOT PROVIDED WITH CURTAINS AND CARPETING. EXPATRIATE ADVISERS NORMALLY FURNISHED WITH MODERN 2 OR 3-BEDROOM APARTMENTS OR HOUSES, ADEQUATE BUT LESS THAN PLUSH.

BASED ON EXPERIENCE OF U.S. PERSONNEL SUCH AS PANAM, PORT AND TRANSPORT ADVISERS, EMBASSY BELIEVES MIN COMMUNICATIONS ACTS IN GOOD FAITH WITHIN INHERENTLY DIFFICULT HOUSING SITUATION.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT PERCEIVE OF MAJOR DIFFICULTIES PRESENTED BY RAJAB'S PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MOA AND ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTS THEY BE INCORPORATED IN REWORDING OF MOA. ARTICLE VI ESTIMATES SHOULD REFLECT REVISED COST STEMMING FROM DIFFERENCES IN REGULATIONS; THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY ASSIGNING PORTION OF TRANSPORT COSTS NOT COVERED BY OMAN REGS TO FAA REIMBURSEABLE COLUMN, AND BY ADDING TO MISCELLANEOUS COST COLUMN DIFFERENCES IN HOUSEHOLD FURNISHING ALLOWANCES. (FYI: SIMILAR CONFLICT IN PANAM PROPOSAL RESOLVED BY THIS METHOD.)

4. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: OMANGOV OFFICIALS MAY STILL REGARD FAA COSTS TO BE HIGH. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO FIRM INFORMATION ALONG THESE LINES, WE CAN'T RULE OUT POSSIBILITY THEY MIGHT BE EXPLORING LESS COSTLY ALTERNATIVES. ACCORDINGLY, WE CANNOT ASSUME THAT FAA CONTRACT IS FOREGONE CONCLUSION. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT GAMMON OR BURLINGAME BE EMPOWERED TO NEGOTIATE AND, AS APPROPRIATE, SIGN CONTRACT DURING UPCOMING VISIT TO OMAN DEC. 8-10.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, CIVIL AVIATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MUSCAT00795
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740344-0164
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974118/aaaaagch.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FAA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE A-7641; FAA BEIRUT 041300Z NOV
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FAA CIVIL AVIATION ASSISTANCE TO OMAN
TAGS: EAID, EAIR, MU, FAA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005